



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*Office of the United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida*

**PAUL I. PEREZ**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

400 North Tampa Street  
Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street, Suite 700  
Post Office Box 600  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/301-6300  
904/301-6310 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,  
Room 201  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,  
Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
239/461-2200  
239/461-2219 (fax)

**Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352**

**For Immediate Release**

DATE: July 25, 2003

**VALRICO MAN INDICTED ON AMMONIA CASE**

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced the unsealing of a seven count indictment today charging Richard Erick Hansen, Jr., age 29, of Valrico, Florida, with conspiracy to possess and manufacture methamphetamine as well as attempting to possess anhydrous ammonia, a chemical, which may be used to manufacture methamphetamine. If convicted, Hansen faces life imprisonment.

According to court documents, Hansen was arrested by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on June 22, 2003 after they responded to a report that harassing phone calls were being made from his home located at 2621 Stearns Road, Valrico, Florida. After obtaining a search warrant, detectives discovered numerous chemicals and items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Further investigation led to the indictment which charges Hansen with attempting to possess anhydrous ammonia in connection with the incident on May 27, 2003 when an underground pipe was tampered with and a cloud of anhydrous ammonia was spread

throughout the FishHawk Ranch area of Hillsborough County.

This investigation is being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffery Downing.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until proven guilty.

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